

EXHIBIT A

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, Restore Public Trust requests access to and copies of certain records held by the Department of Transportation. We seek access to and copies of certain correspondence involving the following individuals, or any individual communicating on their behalf, between January 31, 2017 and the date this request is processed:

- Secretary Elaine Chao
- Jeffrey Rosen
- Geoff Burr
- Derek Kan
- Mark Buzby
- Richard Balzano

Specifically, we request access to and copies of all correspondence sent by, sent to or carbon copying ("CC") any of these individuals that references any of the following terms:

- Bao May Maritime Corporation Ltd.
- Ping May Maritime LLC
- Zhong May Maritime LLC
- Guo May Maritime LLC
- Yue May Maritime Corporation Ltd.
- Lan May Maritime LLC
- Dan May Maritime LLC
- Qing May Maritime LLC
- Min May Maritime LLC
- Kang May Maritime LLC
- Nan May Maritime LLC
- Cheng May Maritime LLC
- Rong May Maritime LLC
- Ing May Maritime LLC
- Ou May Maritime LLC
- En May Maritime LLC
- Jia May Maritime LLC
- Bao May
- Ping May
- Zhong May
- Guo May
- Yue May
- Lan May
- Dan May

- Qing May
- Min May
- Kang May
- Nan May
- Cheng May
- Rong May
- Ing May
- Ou May
- En May
- Jia May
- Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding
- Shanghai Jiangnan-Changxing Shipbuilding
- Qingdao Beihai Shipbuilding Heavy Industry
- Oshima Shipbuilding Co. Ltd.
- Qingdao Beihai Shipbuilding Heavy Industry
- Chinese State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC)
- UK P&I Club
- Foremost Group
- Foremost Maritime Corporation
- Foremost Maritime Company
- Foremost Holdings Corporation
- Super Prosper Industrial Ltd
- Foremost (Ship) Management Company LLC
- Foremost Management Company LLC
- Foremost (Hong Kong) Company Limited
- Foremost Company Limited
- Foremost Investments LLC
- Foremost Capital Reserve LLC
- Foremost Shipping Agency LLC
- Foremost Bulkers Group LLC
- Foremost International LLC
- Export-Import Bank of China
- Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC)
- Bank Sinopac Co. Ltd.
- Mega International Commercial Bank Co. Ltd.
- Credit Suisse AG
- First Commercial Bank
- Land Bank of Taiwan
- Bank of Taiwan
- Hua Nan Commercial Bank Ltd.
- Cargill
- Louis Dreyfus & Co.

- Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK)
- Tradigrain SA
- Bunge SA
- SK Shipping
- Rio Tinto
- BHP Billiton
- Wuhan Iron & Steel Co.
- Traxys

Additionally, we request all correspondence sent by, sent to or carbon copying any of these individuals that was sent by, sent to or carbon copied any of the following individuals:

- James Chao
- Christine Chao
- Angela Chao

If possible, I would prefer to receive this information electronically via e-mail at info@restorepublictrust.org. If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to call me at 202-255-9759.

Fee Waiver Request

Restore Public Trust requests a waiver of fees because disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding" of government operations and is not "primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." The disclosure of the information sought under this request will document and reveal the operations of the federal government, including how public funds are spent and how officials conduct the public's business.

This request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. As a project of a 501(c)(3) organization, Restore Public Trust does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in Restore Public Trust financial interest. Restore Public Trust will use the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. Restore Public Trust will also make materials it gathers available on its public website.

Accordingly, Restore Public Trust qualifies for a fee waiver.

Conclusion

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. Additionally, if any documents are withheld based on the

Agency's interpretation of any exemption, Restore Public Trust requests that you provide an index of those documents as required under *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973), cert. denied, 415 U.S. 977 (1974). Specifically, this Vaughn index should describe withheld documents with enough specificity to determine whether the material is exempt under the act and must describe each document or portion withheld.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Caroline Ciccone
Executive Director, Restore Public Trust